

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: Wed. May 19, 2004

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes  No

Department: Commissioner Rice, District 4

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**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:** Approval of appointment of Commissioner David Rice to the Combined Structural and Operating Plan (CSOP) Advisory Team of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force regarding Everglades restoration issues. As a government agency, this would be a non-voting membership for informational purposes only.

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**ITEM BACKGROUND:** The CSOP is a stakeholder advisory group to the Task Force and will assist in providing recommendations to the Corps during key phases in the CSOP process and increase stakeholder participation in the CSOP development process. The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force must approve membership on the CSOP.

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:** The BOCC passed Resolution #465-2002 in support the Programmatic Regulations for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

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**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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**TOTAL COST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDGETED:** Yes  No

**COST TO COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes  No  **AMOUNT PER MONTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty  OMB/Purchasing  Risk Management

**DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**

DP Rice  
(David P. Rice, Commissioner, District 4)

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included  To Follow  Not Required

**DISPOSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA ITEM #** M 10

# COMBINED STRUCTURAL and OPERATING PLAN ADVISORY TEAM

## CHARTER

### BACKGROUND:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, is proceeding to develop a Combined Structural and Operating Plan (CSOP), with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod Water) and the Canal 111 (C-111) Projects with the assistance of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Everglades National Park (ENP) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Currently, the two projects are partially completed and are operated in accordance with the Interim Operating Plan (IOP) that was approved in July, 2002. In general, the Corps is using the CSOP study to develop the final operating plan for the two projects and, if necessary, to recommend structural modifications to the authorized C-111 and Mod Water projects. Representatives from federal, state, and local governmental agencies and tribal nations, as well as a number of nongovernmental entities, have expressed interest in participating in the CSOP process. To improve and increase the involvement of the affected stakeholders, the Working Group has been asked to establish an advisory committee to provide advice and recommendations. This advisory group is established in response to that request. The CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives is attached.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the CSOP Advisory Team (Team) is to assist the Task Force in providing recommendations to the Corps during key phases in the CSOP process and, by doing so, to increase stakeholder participation in the CSOP process.

### MEMBERS:

The Team consists of voting stakeholders and non-voting agency/tribal team members as follows:

#### Stakeholder/Voting Members:

Carol Rist – League of Women Voters - Chair  
John Adornato – National Parks and Conservation Association  
Medora Alleman – Resident, Grower  
Tad Burke – FL Keys Fishing Guides Assoc.  
Loly Espino – St. Thomas University  
Freddy Fisikelli – Former President Everglades Coordinating Council  
Madeleine Fortin – Resident  
Cynthia Guerra – Executive Director, Tropical Audubon Society  
Arnie Harris – Environmental Advisory Task Force for Miami-Dade County

Deborah Harrison – World Wildlife Fund  
James Humble – Dade Agricultural Landowner  
Tom MacVicar – Agricultural Consultant  
Alice Pena - Resident  
Barbara Jean Powell – Everglades Coordinating Council  
Reginald Walters – Resident, Former Miami-Dade Planner

Governmental/Non-voting:

DOI – Rock Salt  
ENP – Bob Johnson  
FDACS – Linda McCarthy  
FDEP – Ernie Barnett  
Florida Atlantic University – Jim Murley  
FWC – Joe Walsh  
FWS – Barry Rosen  
Miami-Dade County – Roman Gastesi  
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians – Terry Rice  
Seminole Tribe (Have decided not to participate as a member)  
SFWMD – Shawn Sculley  
USACE – Dennis Duke  
USDA – Bill Reck

**GUIDANCE:**

1. The Team is charged to provide advice and/or recommendations at various steps of the CSOP planning process. In general, the Corps, in coordination with the SFWMD, ENP and FWS, will provide input to the Team as described below and the Team will advise the Task Force and its Working Group as indicated.
2. The following list consisting of expected input to the Team, Team deliverables and the deliverables' schedule is provided as the initial work plan for the Team.
  - a. At the initial Team meeting, the Corps, in conjunction with the SFWMD, ENP, and FWS, will present the CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives and brief the Advisory Team on the CSOP.
    - Task 1. The Team will identify key issues and concerns and provide to the Working Group and Task Force the list of issues identified along with any suggestions on how to proceed to resolve issues and concerns.
  - b. The Corps will provide draft performance measures to the Team.
    - Task 2. After receipt of the draft performance measures, the Team will identify key issues and concerns and provide comments to the Working Group and Task Force on those performance measures.

c. The Corps will provide an initial array of Alternatives to the Team.

Task 3. The Team will review the Alternatives, identify issues and provide their recommended improvements to the array, either as recommendations for new alternatives or adjustments to any of the alternatives in the initial array.

d. The Corps will furnish detailed Alternatives, along with necessary technical information, to the Team for review.

Task 4. The Team will review the detailed Alternatives and identify issues, improvements and recommended changes associated with each. The Team will provide progress reports to the Working Group and Task Force every two (2) months, or as otherwise directed, until the task is completed.

e. The Corps will provide the Team with its alternative analysis, including the initial conclusions on the preferred plan.

Task 5. The Team will review the preferred plan and report to the Working Group and Task Force with its final recommendations.

3. All of the Team reports to the Working Group and Task Force should be written. The Working Group, and as appropriate the Task Force, will schedule time at its first meeting after each report to allow a presentation by the Team and a discussion of the report.
4. The Working Group will forward its recommendations to the Task Force as appropriate.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The Team will serve in an advisory role to the Working Group and Task Force. Participation on the Team does not constitute participation in the Corps' formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment process and does not preclude Team members from fully participating in the NEPA public comment process. Neither does participation on the Team modify the independent decision-making authorities and responsibilities of any agencies participating on the Team.
2. It is intended that the Team provide advice to the Working Group and Task Force to assist the Task Force in providing its input on CSOP.
3. All Team meetings will be open to the public and time will be included on the agenda for public comment. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Task Force/Working Group's Public Affairs Procedures.
4. It is not intended that the deliverable schedule necessarily be done sequentially. The Corps and the Team Chair will coordinate the schedule and allow for flexibility when necessary.

5. The meeting schedule will be adjusted as necessary to respond to the planning guidelines.
6. The Team shall strive to develop consensus recommendations to the Working Group and Task Force and use the Task Force/Working Group protocol for approving its reports. When complete consensus is unattainable, a 2/3 majority vote will suffice for final Team actions. Actions other than final approvals may be taken by a simple majority vote. If there is not complete consensus, the comments/recommendations of dissenting members shall be indicated as such and included along with the majority recommendation.
7. Meetings of the Team will be facilitated by independent professional facilitators.
8. The Office of the Executive Director will work closely with the Team, the facilitators and the Corps and its partners to provide assistance as needed.

Attachment:

CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives – to be provided

RESOLUTION NO. 465 -2002

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CONCERNING THE PROGRAMMATIC  
REGULATIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION  
PLAN**

**WHEREAS:** Monroe County includes the Florida Keys island chain as well as a substantial portion of the mainland Everglades;

**WHEREAS:** The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is an \$8 billion federal-state endeavor that aims at restoring America's Everglades including Florida Bay;

**WHEREAS:** Florida Bay is an aquatic nursery that provides the breeding grounds for commercially and recreationally important fish as well as rare birds;

**WHEREAS:** The Florida Keys are home to a \$2 billion-a-year tourism economy largely based on sportfishing and scuba diving, both dependent on clean water and a healthy South Florida Ecosystem;

**WHEREAS:** The Florida Keys are also home to natural resources of international significance including the third-largest barrier coral reef in the world - mainland America's only living coral reef - three national parks, the nation's most-visited national marine sanctuary, five national wildlife refuges, Florida's most-visited state park and the nation's largest and most protected marine reserve;

**WHEREAS:** The Florida Keys are home to Florida's most valuable commercial fishery, which in landings value regularly ranks in the top five in the country;

**WHEREAS:** The Programmatic Regulations are the blueprint for building and operating the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects;

**WHEREAS:** It is in the interest of the Florida Keys - both the natural resources and the residents who depend on the tourism economy - that this blueprint provide strong guidance toward a healthy, restored ecosystem;

**WHEREAS:** Both Florida's senators have joined in a bipartisan position of Senators on the Programmatic Regulations including supporting independent scientific review and strong public outreach efforts as well as the reinstatement of the 80/20 split of water for the natural system and a strong role for the Department of Interior; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE MONROE COUNTY COMMISSION hereby agrees to send this letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers endorsing the Senators' position and calling for the Programmatic Regulations to be strengthened so as to provide stronger guidance for ecosystem restoration.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 16th day of October, 2002.

Mayor McCoy  
Mayor Pro Tem Spehar  
Commissioner Nelson  
Commissioner Neugent  
Commissioner Jimenez



KOLHAGE, Clerk

By Isabel C. DeSantis  
Deputy Clerk

yes  
yes  
yes  
yes  
yes

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By [Signature]  
Mayor/Chairperson

JonesEverglades

FILED FOR RECORD

2002 OCT 30 PM 2:40

KOLHAGE  
CLK. CIR. CL.  
MONROE COUNTY, FLA.

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY  
BY [Signature]  
ROBERT N. WOLFE  
DATE 10-4-02